(b) The total amount of Salt Cess collected during 2004-05 to 2006-07 from the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra is Rs. 697.25 lakh and Rs. 17.21 lakh respectively.

(c) The entire amount of Salt Cess collected is deposited into the Consolidated Fund of India and funds are released for welfare of salt-pan workers through annual budget allocation under non-plan and plan schemes. The State-wise information of the amount spent during 2004-05 to 2006-07 for welfare of salt workers is given in the Statement.

Statement

Amount spent on the welfare of salt-pan workers

(Rs. In Lakh)

State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Provisional)
Gujarat	197.93	423.91	634.26
Tamilnadu	17.78	90.12	181.62
Orissa	43.15	0.34	134.39
Andhra Pradesh	15.43	0.22	77.72
Rajasthan	74.17	33.43	57.11
Maharashtra	0.60	0.19	0.80
Karnataka	0.00	0.00	0.30
TOTAL	349.06	548.21	1086.20

Increasing employment in non-farm sector

3669. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have any programme for increasing employment in the non-farm sector in the rural areas and increasing the wage level in rural employment particularly in the North Eastern Region;